



MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Fransalians - Province of East Africa

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LIVE JESUS

Provincial Circular EAP – JP 13

July 15, 2025

My dear confreres,

Fraternal greetings to all of you!

We thank God for all the blessings He has showered upon us during the past days! The universal Church has a new Pope in Leo XIV. Aspirants and postulants have completed their years of formation, new novices have entered the novitiate, some have professed newly, academic year has come to an end or is coming to an end in our major seminaries. The province retreats, the Forum meetings and sacerdotal jubilees etc., have renewed our determination. Thus, there are many reasons for which we are grateful to God. We walk together as Fransalians and bear witness to the Love of God preached by St. Francis de Sales and continue to pray for the canonization of our Founder.

New Pope

Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, O.S.A. was elected on 08.05.2025 as the new Pope after the demise of Pope Francis. He assumed the name Pope Leo XIV.

Ordinations

Rt. Rev. Josephat Bududu was ordained a bishop and was installed as the auxiliary bishop of the archdiocese of Tabora by his eminence Protase cardinal Rugambwa on May 25, 2025. Most of the bishops of Tanzania, the superior General, Provincial, many Fransalian Fathers, Fathers, Sisters, Brothers, many dignitaries from the Church and Government, and huge crowd of people attended the function. The new bishop specially thanked the Fransalians for supporting him in his higher studies at the Indian Institute of Spirituality, Bangalore, India.

Dn. Lona belonging to the new Region of Mozambique was ordained a priest in his home parish in Palakkad, Kerala India on May 1, 2025. He was student of LCI. Some of our Fathers who were on home leave could attend his ordination!

Deacon Egídio Abel MSFS of Mozambique was ordained a priest on 31.05.2025. Let us keep him in our prayers.

Three MSFS Deacons belonging to Chad-Cameroon Delegation were ordained priests on July 05, 2025. They are Fr. David Yibonga, Fr. Engelbert Nga and Fr. William Adzaba.

Deacon Valentin Chimi was ordained priest on 12.07.2025 in his home parish.

Deacon Linto Vargeese of EAP will be ordained priest on August 16, 2025. Deacon Mathew Devoda of SEIP who underwent theological formation in Morogoro with the East Africa Province will be ordained priest on August 22, 2025.

Bro. Abraham Wamakale and Bro. Pascal Wangi belonging to the province of East Africa, Bro. Bertrand Djoko, Bro. Paulin Djoitanan and Bro. Melchizadek Mbingar belonging to Chad-Cameroon Delegation were ordained deacons on July 05, 2025 in Yaounde, Cameroon.

Congratulations to all of them and our sincere prayers.

Lector and Acolyte

On May 2, 2025 two brothers received the ministry of Acolyte and eight brothers received Lector in a function that took place in JUCo, Morogoro, Tanzania.

Renewal of Vows in Arusha and Morogoro

On 19th of May, sixteen MSFS Brothers belonging to Southern African Region, Mozambique and East Africa renewed their vows. Rev. Fr. Johnson Kallidukkil, our Superior General received the vows. On the same day, twenty-seven MSFS Brothers belonging to Chad-Cameroon, Mozambique and East Africa renewed their vows in LCI, Arusha, Tanzania. Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil received their Vows. Congratulations to all of them.

Admission to the Novitiate

Eighteen novices were admitted to the Novitiate on June 14, 2025. Seventeen of them belong to East Africa Province and one belongs to Brazil Province.

First Profession in Kibaha

Eight novices made their first profession at Fransalium, Kibaha on June 15, 2025. Rt. Rev. Henry Mchamungu, the auxiliary bishop of the archdiocese of Dar es Salaam was the main celebrant of the Eucharistic celebration and the Provincial received the First Vows. It was also the silver jubilee of the existence of Novitiate. The sacerdotal silver jubilee of Fr. James was also celebrated during this occasion. Many MSFS priests, Sisters, relatives and faithful participated in the function. Four of the newly professed are appointed as regents.

First Profession in Ngoundere, Cameroon

The first batch of eleven Novices belonging to the Delegation of Chad-Cameroon made their First Profession on July 02, 2025.

Perpetual Profession on October 09, 2025 in Morogoro

The perpetual profession of our third-year theologians will take place on October 09, 2025. They are promoted to the order of diaconate although the date of the ordination is not yet finalized.

Annual Graduation in LCI

Annual graduation ceremony was held in LCI on May 23, 2025. Rev. Fr. Johnson Kallidukkil, our Superior General was the chief guest of the ceremony.

First Graduation in the Fransalian Spirituality Centre (FSC)

The first graduation ceremony of ten students took place on May 31, 2025. Bp. Lazarus Msimbe of Morogoro diocese was the chief guest. Fr. Provincial graced the occasion.

Hearty Welcome

Our new Superior General Rev. Fr. Johnson Kallidukkil visited some of our communities in Kenya and Tanzania from May 7 to May 28, 2025. He was the chief guest at the Graduation in LCI. He attended the episcopal ordination of Bp. Josephat Bududu in Tabora as well.

Fr. Joseph Giefing who worked with us in Kahama-Mbulu and Mkuza visited various communities in our province from the 2nd of July to the 17th of July 2-17.

Canonization of Fr. Peter Mary Mermer - An Important Milestone

Ceremony of the conclusion of the diocesan phase of the cause of the founder Servant of God Fr. Peter Mary Memier was held on May 6th in Annecy.

Seventy Sixth Death Anniversary of Fr. Jaquierbaba MSFS

On 20.05.2025, the 76th death Anniversary Fr. Jaquierbaba MSFS was held at his tomb in Maharashtra, India. Many people of the region come to his tomb, with the strong belief that by consuming little mud at his tomb heals them and that they receive blessings through his intercession. He was a great missionary. Many people remember him as a saint. Let us pray for his canonization.

Annual Province Retreats

The first annual Province Retreat was held in Fransalian Spirituality Centre, Morogoro from the 4th of June to the 9th of June. We thank Fr. Ignatius Mwabha OSB for preaching the retreat. The second Province Retreat was held in Lumen Christi Institute, Arusha from the 2nd of July to the 7th of July. We thank Fr. Allan Bukenya SAC for preaching

the retreat. I take this opportunity to thank the preachers, the hosts and all the participants of both these retreats.

DSM Retreat in Annecy

Fr. Sebastian Nirappel MSFS from East Africa attended the DSM Retreat in Annecy in the month of May, 2025. He had the privilege of visiting some of our communities and the confreres working in Europe.

Forum Meetings

The following Forum Meetings were held as scheduled. We held the Stewardship Forum Meeting on June 09, the SAIM Forum Meeting on June 10 and the Education Forum meeting on July 7. We thank all the participants, the convenors who organized and the those who hosted them.

RSAT Meeting

The annual meeting of the Religious Superiors Association of Tanzania (RSAT) was held on July 13-14. On behalf of the Provincial Superior, Fr. Clement Sudhakar attended the meeting!

MSAF Meeting

The annual meeting of the Mission Superiors of Africa Forum (MSAF) will take place on July 23, 2025 in Zambia.

Catechists Course in Ndagani

For the first time, at the Fransalian Spirituality Centre, Ndagani, Kenya a Catechists Course started on July 01, 2025. We wish all the blessings for the success of the Course.

Erection of Mozambique Region

The Superior General has raised the Delegation of Mozambique into a Region under the province of Nagpur. Hearty congratulations!

New Provincial of Franco-Swiss Province

Fr. Samuvel Devaraj Thomas is appointed as the new Provincial Franco-Swiss Province from August 01, 2025. Our hearty congratulations to him.

New Diocese of Kapsabet, Kenya

Auxiliary bishop of Eldoret Rt. Rev. John Kiplimo Lelei is appointed as the first bishop of Kapsabet carved out from Eldoret diocese in Kenya. He hails from Kipkaren where the MSFS is serving!

New Borehole at Mwakata, Kahama

At 170 meters clean and pure water was found while digging a borehole at Mwakata. 5000 to 6000 litres of water per hour can be pumped from here. We congratulate the

Fransalian Community at Mwakata and thank the Lord for providing good and sufficient water.

Joint Meeting of the Fransalian Primary Schools in Eastern Tanzania

The first joint meeting of the administrators of the Fransalian Primary Schools in Eastern Tanzania yesterday. It evaluated the performances and proposed measurements to provide quality education and to ensure cooperation between the schools. Thanks to Fr. Thomas Chozhithara for his initiative.

Cancellation of the Priestly Renewal Course in Jerusalem

The Priestly Renewal Course in Jerusalem scheduled for July 7-26, 2025 remains cancelled due to recent events affecting the region, which make it impossible for the organizers to ensure the necessary conditions of safety for the participants.

Appointments

Fr. Packiam Wilson is appointed as the vice-rector and bursar of Fransalian Formation House, Kola, Morogoro, Tanzania with effect from 01.09.2025. He is also appointed as the spiritual director of SFS Junior Seminary, Kihonda, Morogoro with effect from 01.09.2025.

Bro. Isac Manuel of Mozambique Region is appointed to Fransalian Community at SFS Seminary, Buwooya for regency with effect from 05.08.2025.

Bro. Felix Mela is appointed to the Fransalian Community in St. Francis de Sales School, Iyolwa for regency with effect from 17.07.2025.

Bro. Lawrence Nabaya is appointed in the Fransalian Community of Agururu, for regency with effect from 17.07.2025.

Bro. John Onesmo is appointed to Fransalian Community at Katani, for regency with effect from 17.07.2025

Bro. Paul Kizito is appointed to Fransalian Community at Ipuli, for regency with effect from 17.07.2025.

SPA 2025 in Annecy

Fr. Edward Mgagi will attend the Salesian Spirituality Program from September 1 to October 8 to be held in Annecy, France.

Salesian Retreat in preparation for the Perpetual Profession 2025

A Salesian Retreat lasting for a month will be held in LCI, Arusha for those who are going to make their perpetual vows from September 10 to October 07. The entire

program will be coordinated by Fr. Johnson Pathiyil. The program of the retreat will be as follows:

1st Week, 10th -16th September: Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil (**Orientation Seminar**)

2nd Week, 17th to 23rd September: Fr. Thomas Chozhithara, Retreat first week (**1st Stage: Call to Love**)

3rd Week, 24th to 30th September: Fr. Johnson Pathiyil, Retreat second week (**2nd Stage: To be Love: Gratifying Love**)

4th Week: 1st to 7th October: Fr. James Panthalanickel (**3rd Stage: In One Will: Benevolent Love**)

Pilgrimage (Hija) to Calvary Hill, Lukobe, Morogoro

From seven dioceses around Morogoro, Catholic Women Groups of Tanzania (WAWATA) made a pilgrimage to Calvary Hill, Lukobe. After due preparations at the Parish with seminar about pilgrimage, Confessions and Mass they went to the Calvary Hill to make their Hija.

Inauguration of FRANSALIANUM in South Africa

A new pastoral centre belonging to the MSFS under the territory of Pretoria diocese was inaugurated on 28.04.2025. Fr. James Panthalanickel and Fr. Joseph Poikunnel attended this function. Fr. Devasia Manalel is the director of this Institute. Fr. James Panthalanickel preached the annual retreat to the MSFS Fathers working in the Region. Fr. Joseph Poikunnel was one of the participants of the retreat.

Centenary Celebrations

Lububu parish is celebrating its 100 years jubilee on September 14, 2025. The annual pilgrimage (Hija) to the Salvation Hill will be held on September 13, 2025.

Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee

Fr. Augustine Mangatt will begin the golden jubilee of his priestly ordination on the 14th of August. He was ordained on 14.08.1976. Congratulations and prayers!

Sacerdotal Silver Jubilees

Fr. Johnson Pathiyil will begin the silver jubilee of his priestly ordination on the 28th of July. He was ordained on 28.07.2001. Congratulations and prayers!

Fr. Tomy Kattikanayil will begin the silver jubilee of his priestly ordination on the 4th of August. He was ordained on 04.08.2001. Congratulations and prayers!

Fr. Thomas Chozhithara will begin the silver jubilee of his priestly ordination on the 6th of August. He was ordained on 06.08.2001. Congratulations and prayers!

Both the sacerdotal golden jubilee and the sacerdotal silver jubilees celebration will be held in Morogoro on December 13, 2025 at the province level.

Visit to Southern African Region

From 21st April to 22nd May 2025, Fr. James Panthalanickel, our Provincial Superior and I had a short visit to South Africa and Namibia as part of our sacerdotal silver jubilee. We had the opportunity to visit almost all communities and confreres of our Southern African Region. Fr. Abraham Mutoro accompanied us till Vredendal where he is appointed as assistant Parish Priest. Through the generosity, loving support and brotherly care of the MSFS Fathers in SA Region we were privileged to see many of the tourist places in South Africa like Cape Town and Vredendal, Pretoria, and Johannesburg. In Namibia we visited our missions and places like Soweto, Ongha, Windhoek, Luderitz and Keetmanshoop, Swakop and Walvis. We could also visit some of the National Parks, Historical Museums, Mandela House, Aquarium and so on both in SA and Namibia.

On 28th at Pretoria in South Africa, we had the solemn celebration of the blessing of our newly established Pastoral Center and the Jubilee Celebration of Fr. Baiju, Fr. Saju, Fr. Vanderkunnel, Fr. James, and I. The occasion was blessed with the presence of Archbishop of Pretoria and his Auxiliary Bishop, many of the friends and neighbors, priests and religious. It was a remarkable day for all of us.

From 29th April to 3rd May, 2025 we had the constitutional retreat preached by Fr. James Panthalanickel, our Provincial Superior. He oriented us with the theme of *Holiness as Personal Integrity*. We had many of the talks inviting us to holiness and following of our Constitutions as a means to grow in holiness.

We are thankful to all the confreres of Southern region for taking us to all these different places and events and making our trip happy and enjoyable. We express our gratitude to all them. And we promise them our prayers for their successful mission work in South Africa and Namibia.

Reported by Fr. Joseph Poikunnel

Family Day in St. Joseph's Parish, Mlolongo

God has blessed St. Joseph parish Mlolongo to witness another great day of its life to celebrate family day on 22.06.2025. It was a colourful day for the parish of St. Joseph of Mlolongo, Machakos diocese. The parish feast was postponed to this date with the aim of accommodating first thanksgiving mass of our new Priest Fr. Alexsander Wambua child of Mlolongo parish and had his initial formation in Congregation of Missionaries of St. Francis de sales till Philosophy, the first Holy Communion to 150

students, Corpus Christi feast, with the guest of Honor his Lordship Columba Macbeth Green of OSPPE, from Wilcannia Forbes Diocese, Australia.

The parish feast began with solemn procession from 1 km away from the parish with carrying the statues of Blessed Mother and St. Joseph the patron of the Parish by thousands of faithful. There was police band marching with divine music proclaiming the gospel in the street. The holy procession was attended by religious sisters, formees, priests and bishop Columba Macbeth. To mark the event with a memory there was planting of three trees around the Church by the bishop, Fr. Alex and Fr. Jacob Thekkekara MSFS. We thank God for the priests who served the Mlolongo parish from its birth to this day. We pray for God's abundance of blessings on all leaders and faithful of parish to realize spiritual and material growth. May St. Joseph our patron intercedes for all to deepen in faith and experience peace and joy in all.

Reported by Fr. A. Sebastian MSFS

Home Leave

Fr. A. Stephen Gerald	09.06.2025 to 18.07.2025
Fr. Japhet Kirimi	12.06.2025 to 12.07.2025
Fr. Johnson Pathiyil	01.07.2025 to 01.08.2025
Fr. Joseph Mwasa	08.07.2025 to 08.08.2025
Fr. Francis Indumuli	09.07.2025 to 01.08.2025
Fr. Clement Sudhakar	20.07.2025 to 09.08.2025
Fr. Gregory Mua Mutisya	28.07.2025 to 28.08.2025
Fr. Francis Kyule	01.08.2025 to 07.09.2025
Fr. Jacob Thekkekara	04.08.2025 to 10.09.2025
Fr. Lawrence Sebowa	15.08.2025 to 16.09.2025
Fr. Sheejan Kallarackal	25.08.2025 to 25.09.2025
Fr. Tomy Kattikanayil	01.09.2025 to 13.09.2025

New Address

Fr. C. Arokiasamy has been transferred to a new parish as the parochial administrator. His new address is as follows:

Fr. Arockiasamy Chinnappan (administrator)
Sacred Heart of Mary
401 N.U.S Highway 377
P.O. Box 887, Rocksprings
TX 78880
830-349-7676 (Cell)
830-683-2165 (Parish)
casamysfs@gmail.com

Let us Pray for the Sick

Fr. Augustine Mangattu who underwent surgery for cataract

Fr. Patrick Titus who is undergoing treatment for diabetes

Mrs. Mary Nekessa, the mother of Fr. Godwin Nanalo

Mr. Joseph Kayuga, a teacher in our school in Ipuli, Tabora

The Funeral of Fr. Jose Parambukattil MSFS

The funeral service of Fr. Jose Parambukattil was held on Tuesday, 13 May 2025 at 09:00 AM at the MSFS Provincialate, Nagpur, followed by the burial at Seminary Hills Cemetery. Fr. Reji Pendanath represented EA Province in the funeral Mass.

Obituary

Pope Francis (88) died on 21.04.2025

Kaina Jules, the father of Bro. Bello Kaina of Chad-Cameroon Delegation died on 16.04.2025.

Fr. Jose Parambukattil MSFS (72) died on 10.05.2025.

Mrs. Gracy Augustine (82), the wife of the younger brother of the father of Fr. Francis Kallikattu died on 18.05.2025.

Mr Joseph Mattappalli, brother of Sr. Ann Marie SJA (St. Joseph of Annecy) working with us in Ipuli, died on 27.05.2025

Mr. Sebastian Valamparambil, maternal uncle of Fr. Ajish Cheeramban, died on 04.06.2025.

Ms. Mariam Kuniyapavu (92), the mother of Sr. Arpitha (Jessy) Kunjipavu FCC (Dumila school Headmistress) died on 05.06.2025.

Ayebare Evelyn (16), younger sister of Ariinda Gyavira MSFS died on 13.06.2025.

Ms. Lucy Joseph (67), sister of Sr. Arpitha (Jessy) Kunjipavu FCC (Dumila school Headmistress) died on 14.06.2025.

Fr. Thomas Fernandes MSFS aged 84, belonging to Pune province died on 15.06.2025

Mr. John Brianmaraki (97), grandfather of Bro. Brian Arinaitwe MSFS died on 16.06.2025.

Mr. M.J. Sebastian Mullenkuzhiyil, younger brother of Fr. Abraham Mullenkuzhiyil died on 08.07.2025.

Mrs. Josephine (83), the maternal grandmother of Fr. Francis Kyule died on 10.07.2025.

May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace!

Conclusion

Recently we celebrated the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. St. Margaret Mary Alacoque to whom Jesus appeared was a young French sister in the 1600s who belonged to the Visitation Congregation founded by St. Francis de Sales. In the second apparition, Jesus instructed Margaret to devote the first Friday of every month to his Sacred Heart and to pray for an hour between 11 p.m. and midnight every Thursday. These two practices—the First Friday Devotion and the Holy Hour—have since become widely popular among Catholics and especially Fransalians.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart is a Fransalian Devotion from the beginning and is part of the MSFS heritage! In the *Introduction to the Devout Life* Francis de Sales advises the *Philothea* to recollect itself again and again in the solitude of its heart the presence of God so that the heart can remain by itself all alone, in the presence of God alone (Part II, Ch.12). It is important for every Fransalian to realize the presence of God in the depth of his heart. This is his personal responsibility. In a similar way, every Fransalian is called to realize the presence of God in the heart of his confrere. This is his communal responsibility.

As Fransalians we are missionaries of love. Let us spread the devotion to Sacred Heart, all aflame with love, as the healing remedy for a world of cold and broken hearts. Let us realize the presence of God in our own hearts and in the hearts of our confreres!

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,

James

Father James Panthalanickel MSFS
Provincial – MSFS East Africa

